

By: Howard

H.B. No. 943

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of the Transgender Healthcare
3 Advisory Committee.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

6 (1) "Advisory committee" means the Transgender
7 Healthcare Advisory Committee.

8 (2) "Executive commissioner" means the executive
9 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

10 (b) The Health and Human Services Commission shall
11 establish the Transgender Healthcare Advisory Committee to develop
12 and provide recommendations on:

13 (1) the health care and insurance needs for persons
14 who identify as transgender; and

15 (2) the adverse health impacts for patients who do not
16 meet traditional gender standards under the Healthcare Common
17 Procedure Coding System adopted by the Centers for Medicare &
18 Medicaid Services of the United States Department of Health and
19 Human Services or the American Medical Association's Current
20 Procedural Terminology codes.

21 (c) The advisory committee is composed of 15 members
22 appointed by the executive commissioner, unless otherwise
23 provided, as follows:

24 (1) two representatives from a statewide or regional

1 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender or gender-identity
2 advocacy organization;

3 (2) one physician with broad experience working with
4 persons who identify as transgender;

5 (3) one representative from a lesbian, gay, bisexual,
6 and transgender or gender-identity resource center;

7 (4) one representative from a statewide medical
8 association;

9 (5) one representative from a statewide physicians'
10 association;

11 (6) one representative from a statewide pediatric
12 physicians' association;

13 (7) one representative from a statewide insurance
14 association;

15 (8) one representative from the Health and Human
16 Services Commission;

17 (9) one representative from the Department of State
18 Health Services;

19 (10) one representative from the Department of Family
20 and Protective Services;

21 (11) one representative from the Texas Department of
22 Insurance, appointed by the commissioner of insurance;

23 (12) one representative from the Texas Department of
24 Criminal Justice, appointed by the executive director of the
25 department;

26 (13) one representative from The University of Texas
27 at Austin, Texas A&M University at College Station, or the

1 University of Houston; and

2 (14) one representative from The University of Texas
3 Health Science Center at Houston or The Texas A&M University Health
4 Science Center.

5 (d) The executive commissioner shall appoint a member of the
6 advisory committee to serve as presiding officer.

7 (e) A vacancy on the advisory committee shall be filled in
8 the same manner as the original appointment.

9 (f) A member of the advisory committee may not receive
10 compensation for service on the advisory committee, but is entitled
11 to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in
12 performing advisory committee duties. The advisory committee may
13 accept gifts, grants, and donations to pay for those expenses.

14 (g) The advisory committee shall meet at least quarterly at
15 the call of the presiding officer and at other times as determined
16 by the presiding officer.

17 (h) The advisory committee shall develop recommendations to
18 address:

19 (1) the health care and insurance needs for persons
20 who identify as transgender;

21 (2) adverse health impacts for patients who do not
22 meet traditional gender standards under the Healthcare Common
23 Procedure Coding System adopted by the Centers for Medicare &
24 Medicaid Services of the United States Department of Health and
25 Human Services or the American Medical Association's Current
26 Procedural Terminology codes and continuing education for health
27 care professionals addressing those impacts; and

1 (3) the health care needs for inmates who identify as
2 transgender in jails and prisons in this state.

3 (i) The Health and Human Services Commission shall provide
4 administrative support for the advisory committee using existing
5 resources.

6 (j) Not later than August 31, 2018, the advisory committee
7 shall submit a final report to the governor, the lieutenant
8 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
9 executive commissioner with its findings and recommendations
10 described by Subsection (h) of this section.

11 (k) The advisory committee is abolished June 1, 2019.

12 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2017, the executive
13 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, the
14 commissioner of insurance, and the executive director of the Texas
15 Department of Criminal Justice shall appoint members to the
16 Transgender Healthcare Advisory Committee established under this
17 Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.